

## SUBJECTS.

be converted into wet lands, if necessary even by getting a contribution from the ryots. The Kodayar works, he observed, were revolutionising South Travancore and beginning to cause social changes of a far-reaching nature. Lest therefore the great good which the Government had done should become a source of evil, he said, the facilities he pleaded for were imperative and required the serious consideration of the Government.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

66. The necessity for providing against the submergence of paddy fields by the overflow of the Pamburivoikal.

*Mr. P. S. Maruthanayagam Pillai* (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the Pamburivoikal was useful for the drainage of a vast area of about 2,000 kottahs of paddy lands. The excess water in those *yelas* had to be drained by means of the kal. The bed of the kal was now 5 feet above the surface level of the adjoining fields. Heavy rains in the neighbouring hill slopes would submerge the fields on both sides of the kal. Many breaches on the sides of the kal occurred annually to the detriment of the cultivators. The Government were also spending annually a good sum on account of those breaches. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to do the necessary works to prevent the submergence of the paddy fields by the overflow of the kal and that, till then, the tax on the lands might be ordered to be remitted whenever cultivation failed on account of such submergence.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Chief Engineer's estimate for the construction of an under-tunnel to carry away the excess water is being awaited. He is being asked to expedite it.

67. The desirability of improving certain tanks and canals in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

*Mr. Kanakku Aiyappan Narayanan* (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that the people of the taluk were put to much difficulty for want of a free supply of water. The land revenue of the taluk at the recent settlement had nearly trebled and yet the amount spent for the improvement of the irrigation sources in the taluk was nominal. He observed that the best method of supplying water to the taluk was by the opening of the Right Bank Channel; but the Government would not perhaps consider the question before the Left Bank Channel was completed. Another method was by diverting the water of the Neyyar river by the construction of a dam. The scheme might not be very easy but it deserved an investigation through the Chief Engineer. Both the methods above suggested would take time for their realisation. He therefore requested that certain improvements to the Ariyacheri *chira* and the Vandy *chira*, irrigating the paddy lands in the Parassala, Kolla, Kulathur and Chengal *pakuthies*, and the canals and tanks watering the *yelas* in the Kottukal *pakuthi*, should be immediately ordered to be effected. They were all major works under the Irrigation Regulation, but the Government had done nothing in connection with them for the last 25 or 30 years. In doing the improvement works, the portions of the *chiras* and canals registered as *puduvals* in the names of private persons should be ordered to be restored and the full capacity of the tanks and canals maintained in the interests of the ryots.

In regard to the other tanks in the taluk used for irrigation purposes and which came under minor works, the